

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Easter Seals Wisconsin

**Application ID:** 13AC145046

**Program Name:** Easter Seals Wisconsin AmeriCorps Partnership

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The application includes specific needs information related to the proposed expansion of services of Easter Seals Wisconsin in order to meet the three critical community needs in Wisconsin for individuals with severe and multiple disabilities.

(+) The applicant provides a compelling argument for the need in Wisconsin for respite programs for caregivers and specialized camps for disabled individuals and for disabled veterans and their families. Sources they cite demonstrate convincingly, the disparity between caregivers' need for respite assistance and Wisconsin's availability of respite workers and support programs.

(+) The applicant provides detailed description of problems affecting identified populations, caregivers, people with disabilities, and veterans and their families.

(+) The evidence presented is persuasive; in this state there are over 60,000 youth and 200,000 adults with an independent living disability. It provides documentation that support for caregivers is needed and that rural areas have fewer resources to support caregivers.

(+) The applicant provides extensive information on the activities of AmeriCorps members as support workers in meeting a critical care need in Wisconsin assisting people with disabilities to live in their own homes and communities while improving the health and well-being of their families at risk for stress-related disorders due to the demands of care.

(+) The applicant provides a detailed breakdown of how Members will use their time in each of their suggested programs; furthermore, in requesting different slot types, the details include justification for the variations- changing to align with the program offerings. For instance, the time requested for Members responsible for serving during the school year varies from the time requested for Members serving the week-long summer camp; and the full-time and quarter-time requests for Members in leadership roles are also broken down and justified.

- (+) The applicant provides a detailed description of how Members have been involved over the years to impact community challenges.
- (+) The applicant describes how the current plan will build on efforts from previous year, using AmeriCorps members in a variety of roles, including leadership development to grow the volunteer base.
- (+) The applicant describes the 2012 partnership with the University of Wisconsin to conduct an impact assessment of the Easter Seals Wisconsin programs on the community and an initial survey of five years of past AmeriCorps members' experiences discerning between evidence-based/evidence-informed interventions.
- (+) The applicant identifies justification of how and why it will include the journaling intervention for use with veteran families and how the intervention will benefit families and the community.
- (+) The applicant identifies respite and camps as the evidence-informed interventions that will be provided and cites several examples of why it is important and how it has impacted the communities in the past.
- (-) The applicant does not include sufficient local data to describe need in rural areas of the state.
- (-) While it is indicated that the rural communities are in need due to economic constraints, it is not clearly documented as to the extent. Additionally, while there is documentation of the number of disabled in the state, it is not clear as to the number of severely disabled or a description of the caregiver or veteran population.
- (-) The applicant organization does not clearly explain why the veteran or civilian target population was chosen.
- (-) It is not clear if the stated organization accomplishments would not be accomplished without additional Members.
- (-) The applicant does not detail the overall change they expect to see by the end of the grant cycle. They do detail the surveys that they are in the process of creating and the types of questions they will ask however, they do not state what change they expect to come from their service.